

Reliable Information

FOR USE OF UNITED
STATES NEWSPAPER
EDITORS VISITING
WESTERN
CANADA

NO. 2.

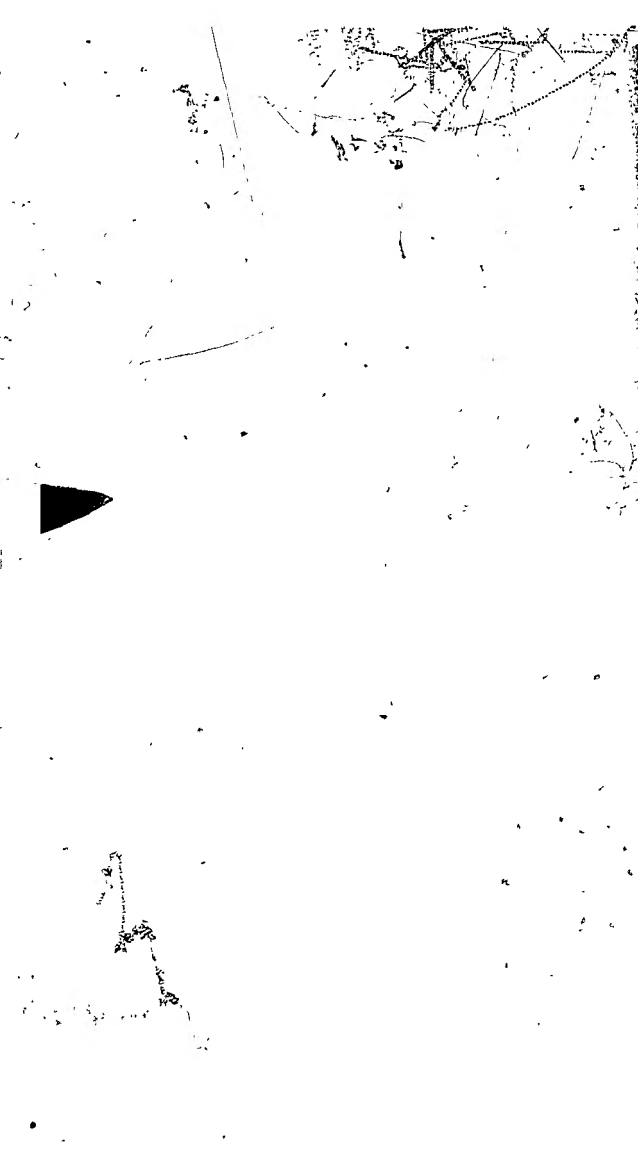
1906
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GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION.

In the Canadian Northwest Both are
Distinctively by the People.

As in all countries consisting of states, provinces or territories, the central government has exclusive control over the tariff, postal facilities, inland revenue and a few other matters of a purely national character. In other things government in the Canadian prairie country is distinctively by the people. The people have municipal corporations when, and only when, they want them, schools in the rural parts when they require them, and then the government pays a large portion of their maintenance. All large public works such as expensive bridges, post offices and general public buildings are erected by the Governments of the country.

Any man a British born subject or who becomes one by naturalization has a vote in all elections and a voice in making the laws of the country. Life and property are as safe in the remote parts of the country as they are in the most advanced cities of any part of America, indeed, in many instances they are even more so. The exemption laws of the whole country are quite liberal, ensuring to the settler safety from seizure for debt until he gets well on his feet and able not only to keep his family but meet liabilities besides. While these laws often screen the dishonest man who could pay if he wanted to, it cannot be denied that everything considered they are a

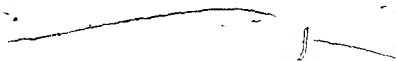


great advantage to the struggling settler. They enable him to use his entire means to the best advantage. When the people desire municipal organization in the territories there is a provision made whereby they can get it at a very small cost. When organization has not been secured, and schools are not required, there is practically no taxation at all. When schools are established they cost the settler but about \$4.00 per one-quarter section, the Government defraying the rest of the cost of maintenance.

CAPITAL IN FARMING.

What can be done by Small Means.

There is no business in which moderate capital can be used to better advantage than in farming in Western Canada, though generally speaking no man can farm even there successfully more land than he can readily oversee himself. Though this is the fact, the country to-day offers better prospects to the industrious settler than it did years ago. Fifteen or more years ago nearly every man in the industry in that country was making his first attempt, and as a result there were but few to lend any assistance to his neighbors. There were few to offer wages to any pioneer any season of the year for the reason they were all pioneering and but few able to pay wages to any one. It is very different now. When a young farmer strikes any point in the country in the spring of the year there are plenty to hire him the summer through and



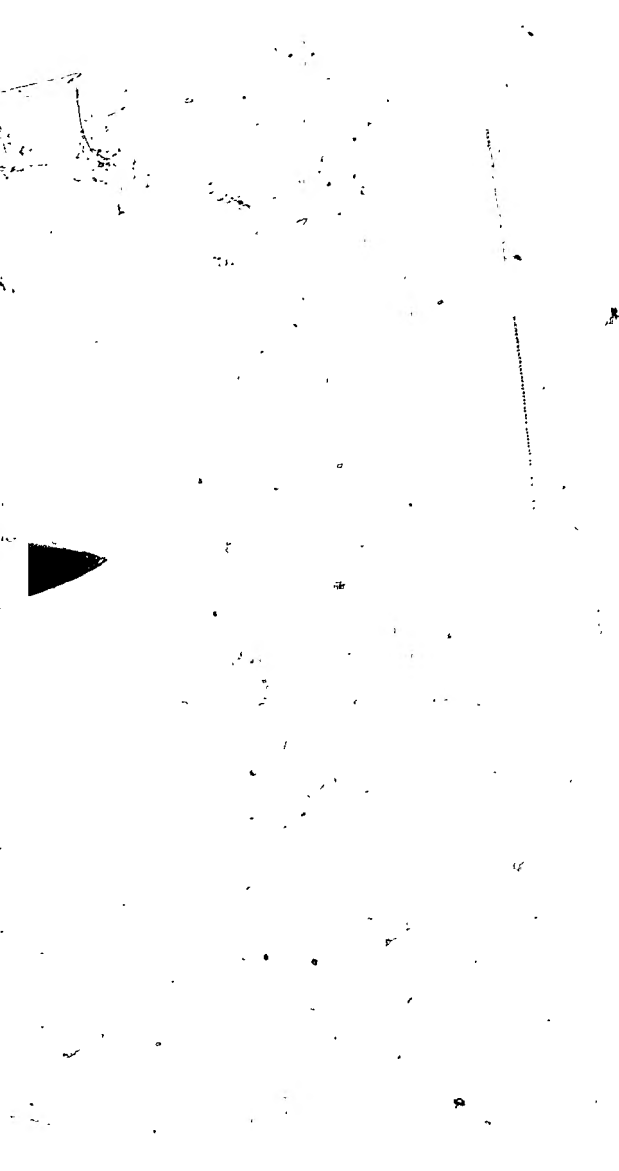
wages got that way for one or two summers expended on a free homestead usually places the owner in a shape "to paddle his own canoe" thereafter. When he puts up his small house and gets off his first crop, even if on but a few acres, he has a start that will carry him through as he has no rent, no taxes of any account and no burdens common to the older countries to provide for. By going no farther into debt than moderate crops are able to liquidate, he never becomes financially embarrassed while on his way to wealth in a very few years.

If the man has means he can, of course, purchase the choicest properties near the railways; but if he is without capital he can homestead, and in a couple of years the railways extend to his door. Rich and poor, Western Canada opens the door to wealth for all industrious men with or without means, who want to take up farming.

WHAT MAKES SUCCESS?

How Much Money Should a man
Bring to the Canadian Prairies?

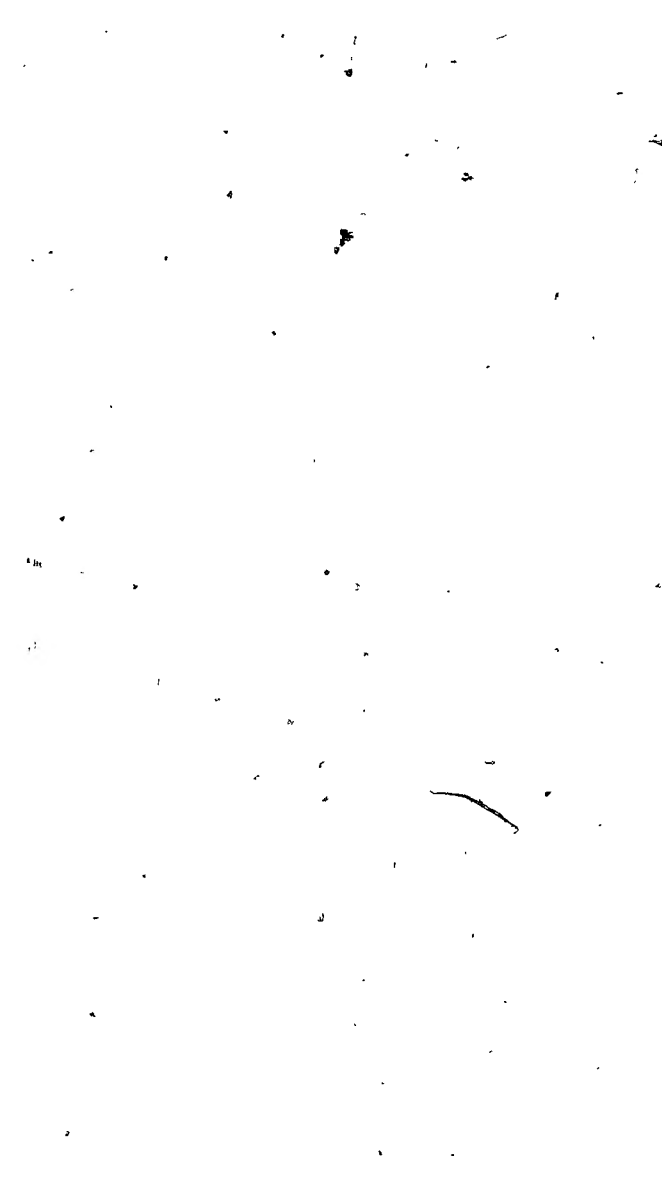
This is the most difficult question of all to answer. Conditions are made to vary so much in different hands. One man may start a dry goods store in a town with \$10,000 cash in hand and fail, and another may start in the same town, in the same business, and succeed. Men have been known to take their wives to the prairies, be without a dollar at landing and succeed. Oth-



ers have been known to bring many thousands, farm with kid gloves on and fail. It nearly all depends on the settlers' energy and habits.

Generally speaking, however, if a monied man brings enough money to locate himself in a small house, purchase a cow or two and keep himself and family a year, with industrious habits and a careful eye and the methods of success, he will be certain to grow into easy circumstances in a short time. It has always been found the wisest plan to keep as well out of debt as possible, hire as much work done on the homestead as possible, paying for it in exchanged work until the area under cultivation and crop warrant the purchase of a team and machinery. Cattle and mixed farming may be indulged in from the start as they cost but little and are always money makers. There are instances of men landing in the country with \$300 and in twenty years, doing nothing but farming all the time, coming out worth \$50,000. It all depends on the case of the settler, his industry and close observation of the best and most successful methods of carrying on his business. Any man who can bring from \$500 to \$1,000 should have good buildings, an improved farm, plenty of implements and stock, with a nice bank account to his credit in from five to ten years' time, if he meets no misfortunes in the interval and is not burdened with more than the usual encumbrance.

Immigrants would do well to remember it never pays to purchase effects



and bring them in under freights unless they are bought at sacrifice prices. In fact it is always better to dispose of effects before leaving, if the distance is long, if they can be sold to advantage. When, however, belongings cannot be sold to advantage at home and the distance is not too great, they may be brought in with profit. Generally speaking, new goods and settlers' effects of every description can be bought here at prices at least equally low with outside prices and the freight added—often lower.

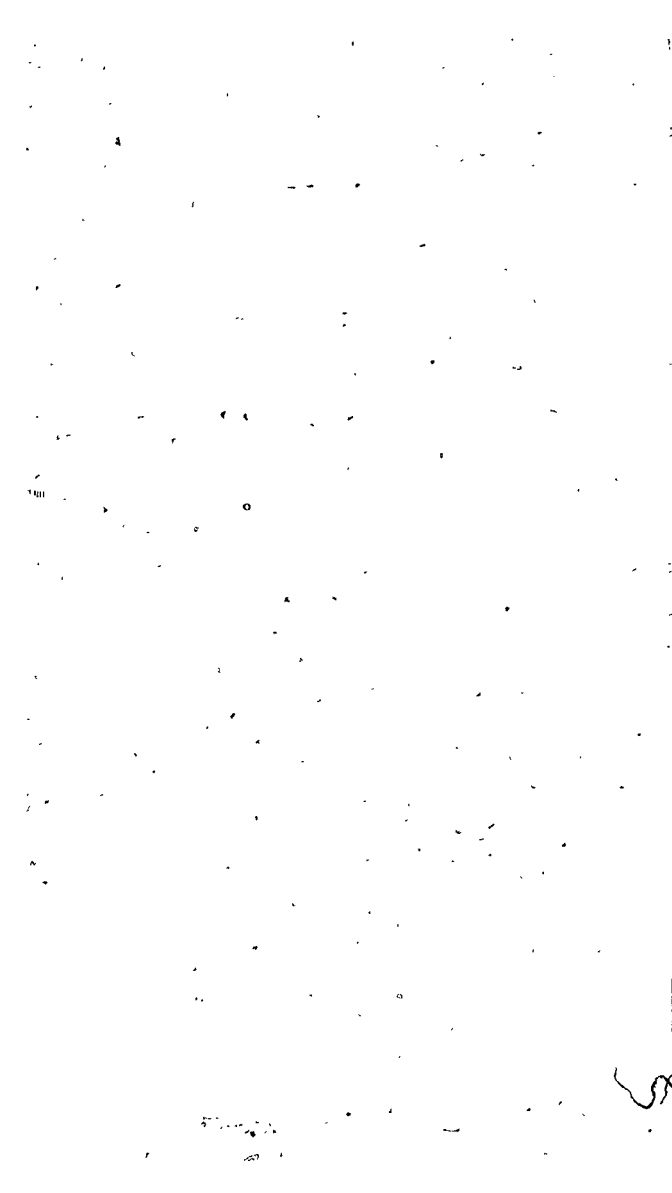
Cotton goods are a trifle higher on the Canadian side than they are on the American side; but as the American wool crop is always short of demand and has to be imported under heavy duties, and as Canada always has wool for export, woollen goods are cheaper here than they are on the American side.

As all farm products are raised here for export, they are cheaper than in any other country for their cost, while all other articles of every day consumption are the same as eastern or American prices with costs of conveyance added.

OPINIONS OF EXPERTS.

Great Interest in Western Canada Throughout the United States.

Mr. John Everett Holland, of Chicago, in an interview on Western Canada, said: "The fertility of the land has been to me the greatest surprise and the ease with which it may be



worked, and the depth of fertile soil I would never have believed had I not seen it. You have truly a wonderful country lying dormant waiting for the new settlers. Five years ago you could not talk Canadian lands to American farmers without being laughed at; to-day when a farmer hears of anyone who has visited the productive lands of Western Canada he hastens to interview him."

Mr. Theo. Rockefeller is another expert, who has dealt in Western lands for the past twenty years. Of the comparative values he said: "I have examined western lands in the United States for the past twenty years, both in the south and west, and I have never, never in all my experience examined land that gave brighter prospects of productive qualities than this territory which I very carefully examined. This country is capable of producing wheat for the next forty years to come, and a quality of wheat that cannot be equalled in any other part of the American continent. The phosphorous soil which is so necessary in order to produce the No. 1 hard, covers this entire western country over which we have travelled; and if the railroads leading into this district would make it an object for farmers to come up and look at the country available, in a few short years there would be but little unoccupied fertile land north of the boundary."

PAYING MORTGAGES.

The Canadian Northwest to the Rescue.

It is no uncommon thing for farmers having mortgaged farms in the older parts of Canada, to lease their mortgaged properties for a few years, take what money they can get together, go to the prairies and commence farming, and in a few years make sufficient money by the sale of their crops and improved western farms to redeem their mortgaged properties in the east. There are many instances of this class on record. There is no such thing as retrogression in the Canadian Northwest, everything is expansion. It is true there are failures there as there will be at any business anywhere through recklessness and extravagant habits. The strongest horse may be overloaded, and the fleetest animal may be driven to death. Bad methods and living above means may lead to failure in farming even in that country, but failure never comes where care and diligence are employed until the farmer gets well on his feet. When he is once well on his feet the methods that place him there will soon lead to wealth. The intending immigrant will bear in mind that in addition to making money in farming operations, his lands are growing in value year by year. Often a homestead that costs nothing grows into a farm worth from \$10 to \$20 an acre in a very short time through the development of the country. Most of the well off people in



all old countries have become so through growth in the value of their properties. The same is true in the West, with the addition of most remunerative farming operations besides.

WESTERN CANADA.

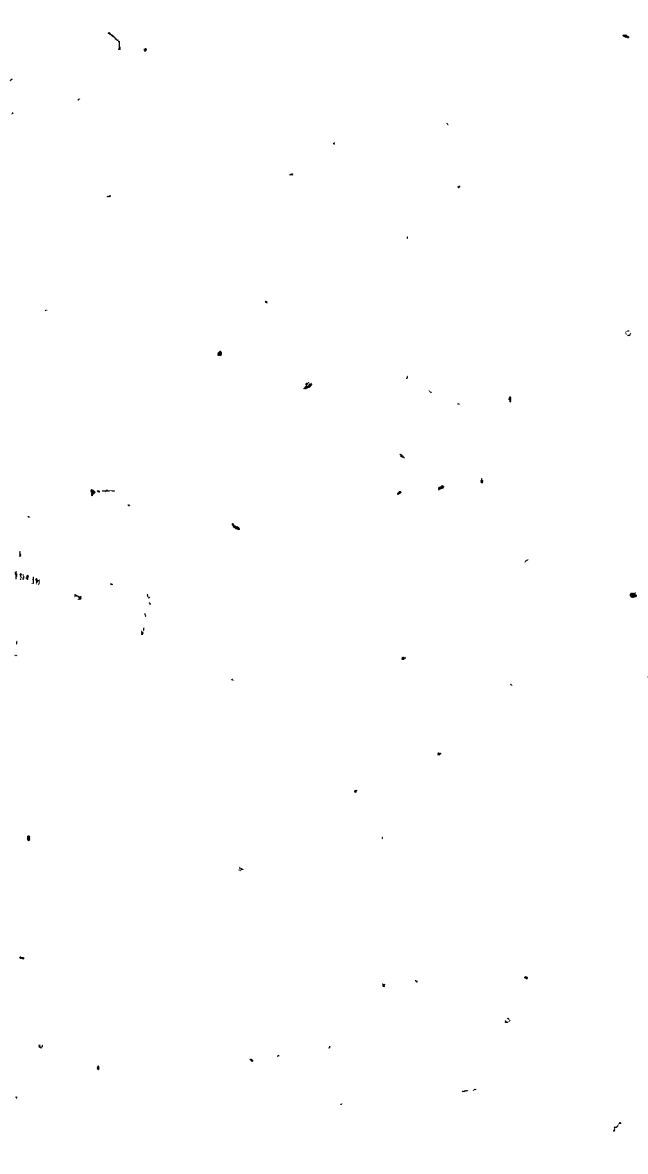
What a Leading Agriculturist Says of it.

In a letter to "The Farmer," St. Paul, Thomas Shaw of the Minnesota State University, has the following to say, after having made a trip through Western Canada:

"The capabilities of the immense area known as Western Canada are but little understood on this side of the line. Our people are apt to look upon it as a region of frost and snow, a country in which but a small portion of the land relatively will ever be tillable because of the rigors of the climate. True, the climate is cold in winter, but Western Canada has, nevertheless, just that sort of climate which makes it the most reliable wheat producing country in all the continent.

An Immense Area.

"Western Canada is not only an immense area, but the same description will apply to those portions of the country that are capable of being successfully tilled or grazed. Nearly all of the Prairie Province of Manitoba can be brought under cultivation, al-



though probably not one-third of its surface has been laid open by the plough. Assinibolia to the west is a grain and stock country. Saskatchewan to the north of Assinibolia has high adaptation for the same. This also may be said of Alberta to the west and of Athabasca to the north. In these provinces lies what may be termed a grain growing and stock producing empire, the resources of which have been but little drawn upon comparatively, viewed from the standpoint of the agriculturist. When it is called to mind that even in the Peace River country in Athabasca, and several hundreds of miles north of the Canadian boundary, wheat was grown which won a premium at the World's Fair in 1893, the capabilities of this country in wheat production loom up more brightly than even the brilliant Northern lights of the land that lies toward the pole.

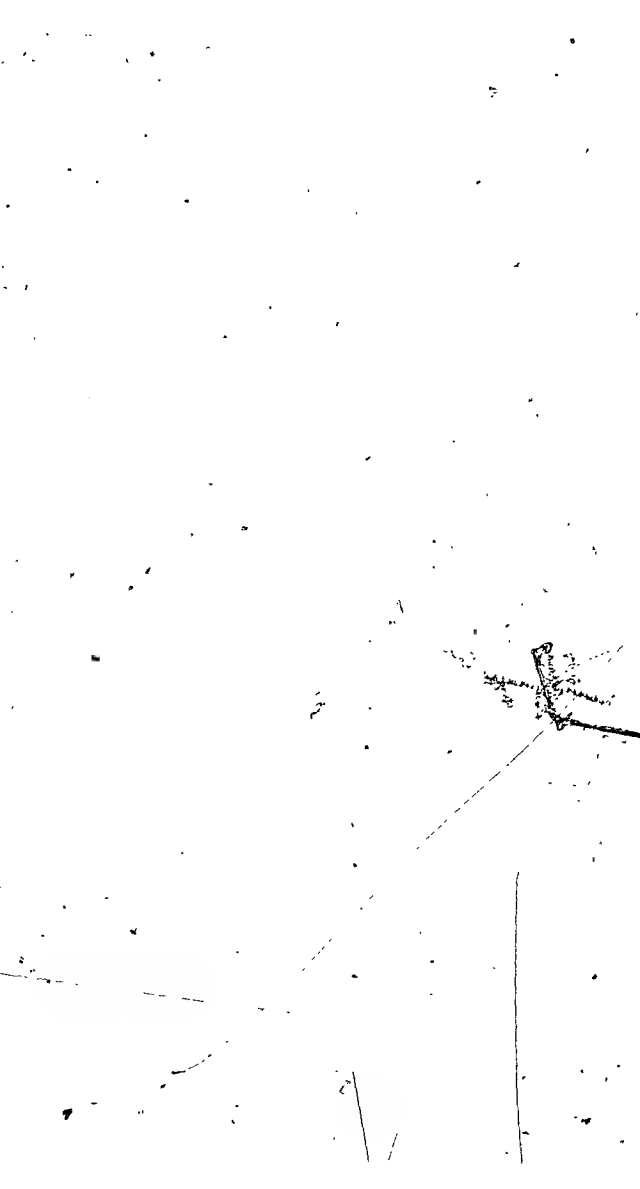
Adapted only to Stock and Grain Production.

"The region under consideration is, however, mainly adapted to growing grain and grazing stock. Much of it is adapted to growing both grain and stock, but certain areas, especially towards the mountains, are only adapted to ranching, except where irrigation will yet be introduced. This, of course, can be done successfully along the main streams that flow down from the Rockies, and water the country towards the east and north. The adaptation of the country for wheat production is of a high character. The cool

nights that usually characterize the ripening season are eminently favorable to the filling of the grain, and to the securing of a plump berry, and consequently large yields. The crop 'this year is a magnificent one. In Manitoba and the Territories it should certainly give an average of more than twenty bushels per acre. But should the yield be not more than twenty bushels, the crop will be a most handsome one, owing to the large area sown to wheat. Many farmers only grow grain. But those who do succeed as well in growing oats and barley as in growing wheat, hence these foods for stock should always be abundant. Some grow cattle mainly and others combine the two. The last named, of course, is doubtless the safest of the three during a long course of years, that is to say, where such farming is practicable.

Quality of the Live Stock.

"It is a pleasurable surprise to the writer to note the high quality of the stock in all portions of the Canadian North West that were visited. I have no hesitation in saying that the average of quality in cattle is higher than the average of cattle in our State, unless in the dairy classes. This opinion is not reached rashly or without ample opportunity for investigation. I spent three long days in the show ring at Winnipeg, making the awards in the beef classes. As a result of what came before me, I question if any of our states, single handed, could make such a showing in cattle. It was my priv-



ilege to make the awards at the several shows at Qu'Appelle, Regina and Wolsley, and at all of these fairs were evidences of the fact that much careful attention is given to the improvement of the stock. I also visited a ranch at Calgary, and noted carefully the character of the herds that grazed along the railroad and everywhere the high average of the quality of the stock was in evidence. Of course it is not meant that the quality of the same is as high as it may be or as it ought to be, but in the relative sense it stood high.

Reasons for Quality in Stock.

"Several reasons may be assigned for the good quality of the stock. In the first place I suppose the quality of the grass is good. In the second place many of the settlers came from Ontario and had been schooled as to the value of good stock before going west. In the third place the railroads and the Government have taken a deep interest in making it less difficult and costly to the farmers to secure good males. Both the railroads and Government will reap a rich reward for the investment. Carload after carload of good bulls have been shipped in during recent years at a nominal cost to the farmer for freight.

"Those who are anxious of changing their residence should bear in mind that the lands in Western Canada are many of them free and others reasonably cheap."

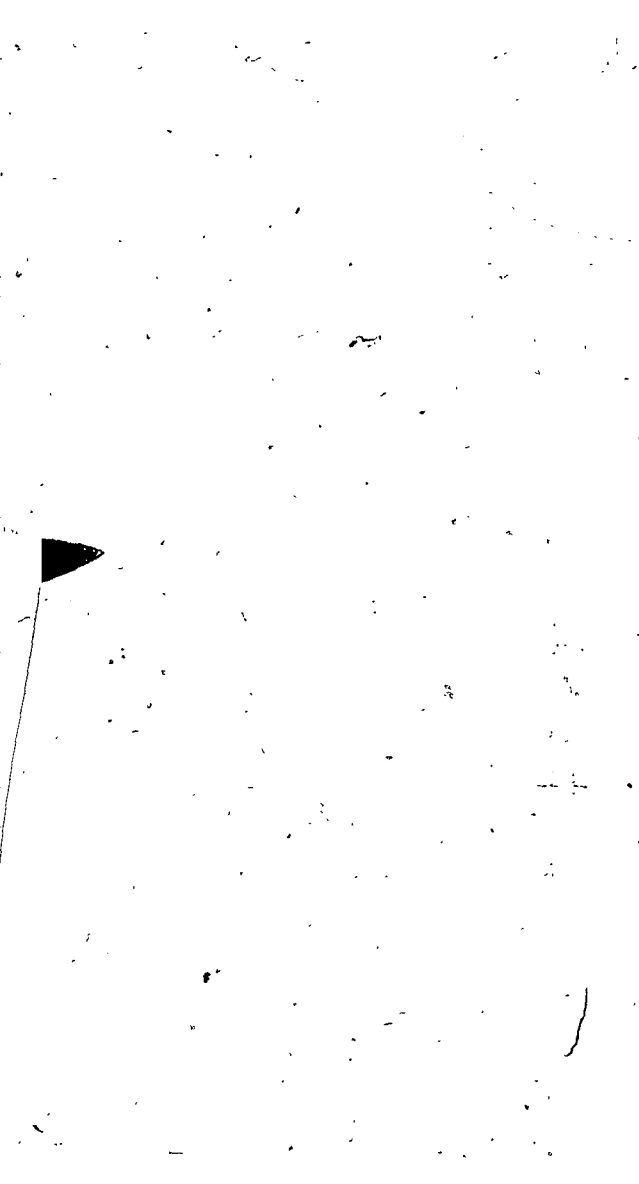


RANCHING.

The Canadian Northwest an Ideal Ranching Ground.

It is proverbial that no people surpass the Americans in "knowing a good thing when they see it." As a consequence there are scores of them already cattle, horse, and sheep ranching in this country, having brought their herds and flocks from the American western country, to where they knew they could do infinitely better. For many reasons that every well informed man can readily understand, though this country possesses the largest and most valuable grain growing belt in the world, there are tracts of it more especially adapted to grazing. For instance, the "Chinook" or warm winds from the Pacific coast, because of the conformation of the Rocky Mountains, affect districts on the eastern side of the hills, diminishing the rain fall of the summer necessary for successful cropping. These make the country the ideal one for ranching, readily melting the snow falls of the winter season, leaving the ground absolutely bare most of the time, rendering grazing ample the entire year round. These winds so raise the temperature of the winters that the most delicate animals can live out the entire season, and come out well in the spring. Housing and winter feeding are but very rarely resorted to.

The scrub cattle of earlier years are fast giving way to better breeds through the importation of well-bred animals. Even the rancher knows it



costs no more to keep a good animal than a poor one, and always has in the former a more merchantable product, whether for the farm, the dairy or the block.

It is well known to all ranchers, that American prairie-fed cattle are never fit for slaughter off the ranch; they are invariably shipped to the upper Mississippi Valley States for finish for the markets. Canadian ranch cattle require none of this—they are “prize beef off the ranch alone”, as an American authority puts it, which is the very highest tribute that can be paid to the superiority of Canadian ranch lands. As there are so far not more than 400,000 head of horses and horned cattle on the great expanse of prairie lands in this country, the possibilities for wealth for many more ranchers are at once self-evident, especially when the United States, British Columbia and Great Britain afford open markets for fat stock as soon as they are available.

Men may figure as they can; but it seems almost hopeless to attempt to grasp the possibilities of a two hundred million acre ranch—the field now awaiting occupancy, there not being more than two animals of any kind at present on each four hundred acres.

But this alone does not end the advantages for the stockman in that great country—he is not compelled to purchase his grazing lands at any high figure—he can lease from the Government for a term of years on most advantageous terms.

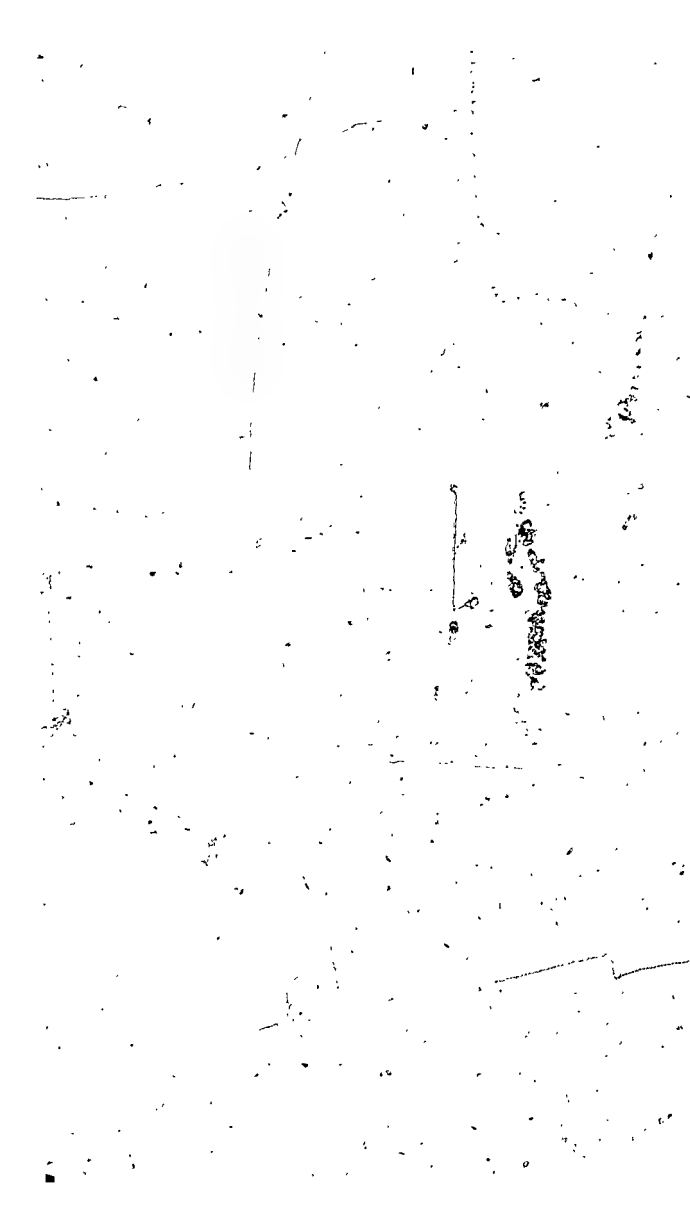
SWINE.

A Remunerative Business in Western Canada.

As the mining and other industrial centres of British Columbia, to say nothing of the large outside demand, offer a remunerative market for territorial pork, it is gradually coming to the front as an important line of the agricultural industry.

There are already in the country several large pork packing factories which offer a good market to the farmer.

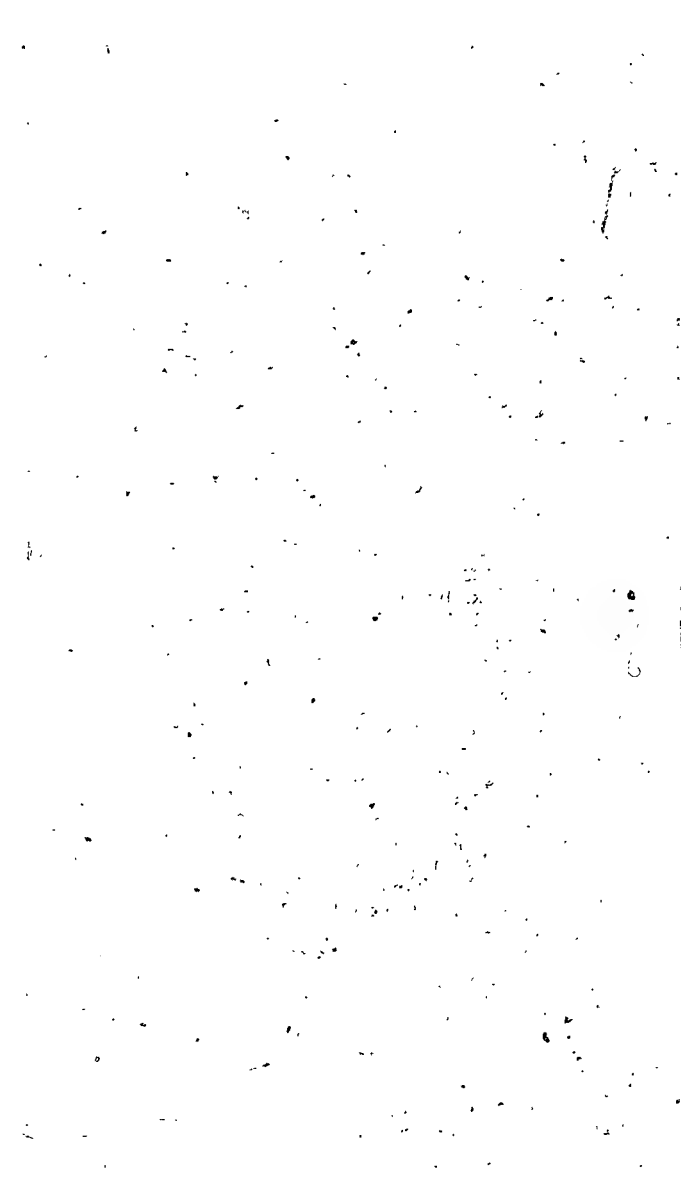
As barley is always an excellent crop in the country, and is found to be a superior fattening food, the extension of the pork business, in view of the fact it takes but little capital to work into it extensively, should be a matter of easy accomplishment. A Mr. Smith, a few miles from Calgary, made a careful estimate of the cost and profit of a hog ranch for three or four years and he found for his time, counting all cost of raising and fattening, he could readily clear 50 per cent. on his investment. The benefits that accrue from the management of other live stock on a farm readily result to the hog rancher as well in allowing him to carry on other branches of the farming industry at the same time, pork, as well as beef and horses, thriving while crops are growing, and while the farmer is asleep in bed.



STOCK HUSBANDRY.

Western Canada's Provinces Lead.

Properly speaking, considering the live stock question from the western standpoint, the cattle section is divided into two great branches—the ranch-bred and the farm-bred. On account of their geographical position and other local causes, such as the influence of the country, southern Alberta and Western Assinibola are essentially the home of the rancher, and Eastern Assinibola, Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta, the mixed farming districts, the ideal country for the latter. From the practical point of view, as intimated, the divisions are outlined by varying climatic conditions necessitating different methods of handling the stock, but more especially in the natural divisions is the lesser degree of humidity prevalent in the ranching section and the higher temperature of the winter season insuring pasturage the winter through. These influences cause the prairie grasses, and they are many, and varied, but all especially adapted to the purpose, by a wise provision of nature, to suspend growth early in the autumn when they are subjected to a regular process of curing during the bright sunny fall season. This is an explanation to the uninitiated of what is something of a mystery, how cattle, horses and sheep are able to range out all winter even on snow covered prairies and come through in the spring in a thrifty condition. This curing process causes all the nutritive

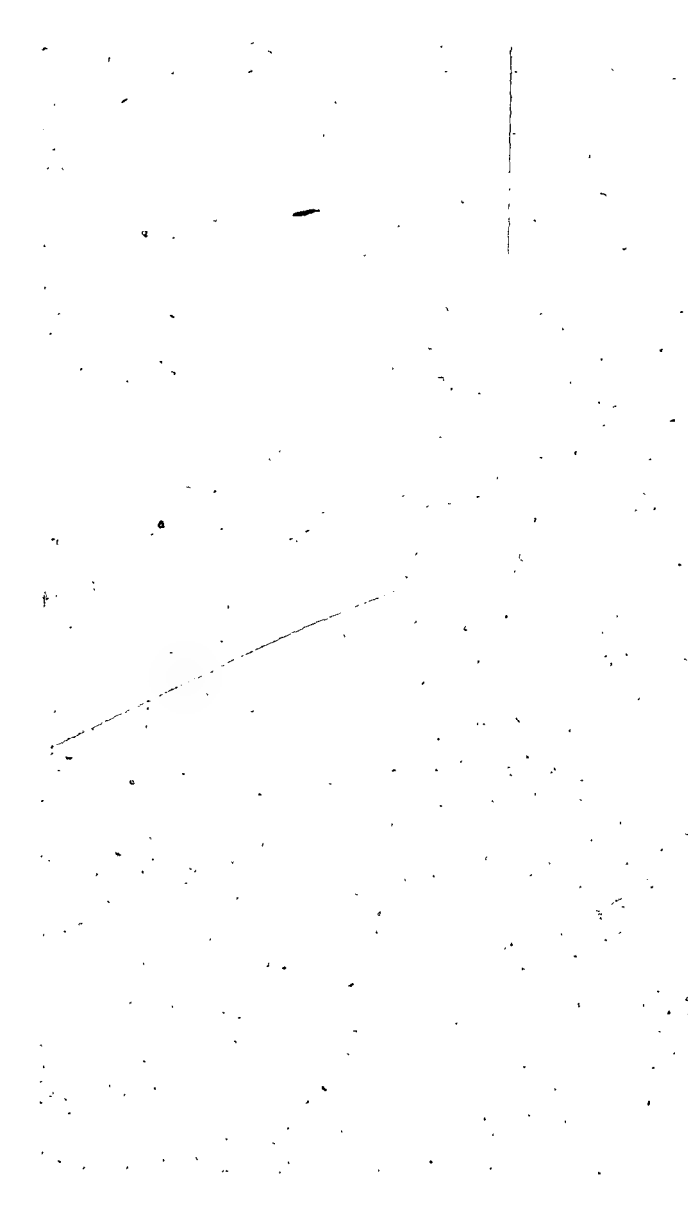


properties to remain in the grass the winter through, instead of being bleached out as they are in other districts with a heavier rainfall. Observers sought an explanation for the vigorous condition of the prairie buffalo in the spring, and for the equally sleek and fat condition of horses or cattle that had become lost and remained out all winter and they found it in the influence of the weather in the grass curing season of the fall. Enterprising stock men in the earlier years were not slow to take advantage of information that came to them in this way, and then followed the formation of the ranching companies in the Western States many years ago. Observation that led to the adoption of the principle has induced the ranchers to learn that in all the essentials of industry the Canadian prairies lead, and hence the rapid expansion of the ranching business in this country. And yet there is room for thousands more.

SHEEP.

Another Profitable Industry in the Canadian Country.

It is generally conceded that sheep thrive better on high than on low lands, and as a consequence there are portions of this country in which sheep raising is not as successful as other branches of mixed farming. In most portions of the ranching country, however, sheep do remarkably well. A little housing and winter feeding is found desirable in some localities for



short periods; but, generally speaking on the ranches they take the run of other animals and turn up all right in the spring.

In the earlier days of the country, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana ranchers brought in a number of Merinos that at the time weighed about fifty pounds each. By successive breeding the weight of the average animal now runs about eighty pounds, which is all the evidence necessary to show that sheep do well on Canada's western prairies. Neither has this improvement been brought about by the importation of mutton sires or at the expense of the wool growing capacity of the sheep as is shown by these comparisons. The average fleece weight of Montana is 6.80 pounds, and that of the United States as a whole 6 pounds, while that of the Canadian prairies is 7.29 pounds.

Another advantage of sheep ranching lies in the fact that it does not require a heavy capital to commence with. In this the sheep holds out to be "the poor man's friend." A few hundred dollars enables a man to make a start and care accomplishes the rest. To meet the situation, woolen mills are now being established in the country, and the home-made yarn and cloth serve a useful purpose for the people in the winter season.

In most cases the flocks on the ranches run about 2,500 each in charge of one herder; a little housing in the winter being the only other cost. The ewe flocks usually give annual increase



of about 90 per cent., and the animal loss less than 10 per cent., which gives a fair idea of the profit of the business.

There is evidently a field in the country for breeders of pure-bred sheep, and experienced men would be certain to make money in the business.

British Columbia offers a good market for mutton, fat sheep usually bringing about \$7.50 in the market.

INFORMATION AS TO SETTLERS' RATES ON RAILWAY, &c., CAN BE SECURED FROM ANY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENT, LOCATED NEAR YOUR HOME, OR FROM W. D. SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION, OTTAWA, CANADA